

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 DUBLIN 01776 281705Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 USIA-15 PRS-01 /065 W
-----117863 281714Z /43
P 281600Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9406

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1776

FOR EUR/DEP ASST SEC VINE

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PINT EI UK US
SUBJECT: INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR SHANNON

1. FOLLOWING IS FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE FROM IRISH INDEPENDENT JULY 27 REPORTING AN INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR SHANNON. THE LAST THREE PARAGRAPHY WERE IN RESPONSE TO PURELY HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION AND WOULD MORE PROPERLY HAVE BEEN IN CONTEXT HAD THEY BEEN USED IN THE FOLLOW-UP STORY BY THE SAME REPORTER IN TODAY'S INDEPENDENT (JULY 28). THIS SECOND STORY ARISING FROM THE SAME INTERVIEW FOLLOWS IN DUBLIN'S 1777.
2. BEGIN QUOTE FBI INFLITRATORS ARE POISED TO SMASH THE IRA'S WELL-ORGANISED GUN-RUNNING RINGS IN THE UNITED STATES, ACCORDING TO THE NEW US ENVOY TO IRELAND.
3. IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH THE IRISH INDEPENDENT, MR. WILLIAM V. SHANNON, WAS ALSO HIGHLY CRITICAL OF THE EMBITTERED GROUP OF OLD MEN -- SOME IN THEIR 70S-- WHO ARE IN CHARGE OF THE NORTHERN AID COMMITTEE, ACCUSED OF BEING A PROVO FRONT ORGANISATION.
4. MR. SHANNON (49), SHOSE PARENTS EMIGRATED FROM WEST CLARE TO THE U.S. AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CENTURY, POINTED OUT THAT UNDERCOVER AGENTS OF THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT WERE FERRETING OUT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 DUBLIN 01776 281705Z

INFORMATION ABOUT THE ILICIT GUN-TRADE.

5. SEVERAL GROUPS OF GUN-RUNNERS HAD BEEN ARRESTED ALREADY, HE SAID. SOME HAD BEEN CONVICTED, OTHERS HAD CASES PENDING, OR APPEALS PENDING.
6. HE POINTED OUT THAT, AS A RESULT OF THE JUSTICE DEPART-

MENT'S LAW ENFORCEMENT MEASURES, THERE WERE CASES, RELATING TO GUN-RUNNING, IN NEW YORK, BALTIMORE AND ELSEWHERE.

7. MR. SHANNON THEN SPOKE OF THE BITTER OLD MEN IN NOR-AID, WHICH, IN RELATION TO THE RAISING OF FUNDS, IS THE PRINCIPAL ORGANISATION THAT IS SYMPATHETIC TO THE PROVISIONALS.

8. HE EXPLAINED: "THE LEADERS OF NOR-AID -- THAT IS, THE NOMINAL LEADERS -- ARE ALL MEN IN THEIR SEVENTIES, WHO FOUGHT IN THIS COUNTRY IN THE TWENTIES WHEN MR. DE VALERA ENDED THE CIVIL WAR, THEY EMIGRATED.

9. "I THINK THAT SOMETHING LIKE 10,000 SUPPORTERS OF THE LOSING SIDE IN THE CIVIL WAR EMIGRATED TO THE U.S., MOST OF THEM IN AND AROUND NEW YORK. THESE MEN ARE NOW IN THEIR 70'S AND 80'S.

10. "AND, OF COURSE, YOU CAN'T CHANGE THEIR MIND ON THIS SUBJECT," DECLARED MR. SHANNON, WHO IS AUTHOR OF THE BOOK, THE AMERICAN IRISH. "THEY ARE STILL FIGHTING THE BATTLES OF THE 1920'S

11. HE SAID THAT THERE WAS ALSO A YOUNGER HARD-CORE IN NOR-AID --MOST OF THEM FROM THE NORTH -- IN THE 35-PLUS AGE GROUP, WHO HAD GONE TO THE U.S. IN THE YEARS OF LARGE SCALE EMIGRATION FROM 1945 TO 1965.

12. MR. SHANNON CONTINUED: "I KNOW THAT IN EASTERN CITIES LIKE UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 DUBLIN 01776 281705Z

BOSTON, NEW YORK AND BALTIMORE THERE ARE IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL RUN OF IRISH BARS, ONES KNOWN AS NORTHERN BARS, OR PROVO BARS.

13. "I THINK IT IS THOSE IMMIGRANTS WHO PROVIDE THE NUCLEUS OF SUPPORT FOR NOR-AID . . . I DON'T THINK THE GREAT MASS OF IRISH-AMERICANS WOULD GIVE MONEY TO ORGANISATIONS WHICH SUPPORT VIOLENCE."

14. HE SAID THAT NOR-AID WAS CURRENTLY ENGAGED IN A LEGAL ACTION WITH THE JUSTICE DEPARTMENT OVER WHETHER IT IS A HUMANITARIAN ORGANISATION OR THE AGENT OF A FOREIGN POLITICAL MOVEMENT, WHICH SHOULD BE REGISTERED.

15. MR. SHANNON MADE IT CLEAR THAT PRESIDENT CARTER WAS ANXIOUS TO TAKE AN INITIATIVE IN RELATION TO NORTHERN IRELAND, BUT OF A NON-POLITICAL NATURE AND ONE WHICH WOULD HELP BOTH COMMUNITIES.

16. THERE HAS BEEN SPECULATION ABOUT THIS SINCE THOMAS P. O'NEILL, SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES GOVERNOR HUGH CAREY OF NEW YORK AND SENATORS EDWARD KENNEDY AND PATRICK MOYNIHAN, WHO ARE ALL IRISH-AMERICANS MET SECRETARY OF STATE

CYRUS VANCE.

17. MR. SHANNON SAID: "THERE ARE HUMANITARIAN ACTIVITIES THAT COULD BE PURSUED TO HELP THE PEOPLE IN BOTH COMMUNITIES IN THE NORTH AND IT IS PRESIDENT CARTER'S DESIRE THAT WE EXPLORE SUCH OPPORTUNITIES."

18. HE POINTED OUT THAT PARTLY AS A RESULT OF CONSCIOUS U.S. GOVERNMENT POLICY, AMERICAN INVESTMENT HAD GONE UP IN THE NORTH. AND IT WAS THEIR DESIRE TO INCREASE THIS EVEN FURTHER.

19. MR. SHANNON ALSO WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE TO ACCOMMODATE UP TO 200 NORTHERN PEOPLE WISHING TO BREAK WITH VIOLENT ORGANISATIONS AND EMIGRATE TO THE U.S.
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 DUBLIN 01776 281705Z

20. HE BELIEVED THAT THE LEADERS OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT HAD CONVERSATIONS WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT ON THAT PROBLEM. SOMETHING SIMILAR HAS ALREADY BEEN AGREED WITH NEW ZEALAND.

21. MR. SHANNON SAID THAT SUCH REFUGEES COULD BE "PAROLED IN" ON A TEMPORARY BASIS AND ADDED: "IF YOU ARE DEALING WITH 50 100 OR 150 PEOPLE THAT WOULD BE A MANAGEABLE NUMBER, I THINK."
END QUOTE SHANNON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, AMBASSADORS, PRESS CONFERENCES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 28-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977DUBLIN01776
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770270-1047
Format: TEL
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770710/aaaaaiks.tel
Line Count: 145
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 57f58662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1721662
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: INTERVIEW WITH AMBASSADOR SHANNON
TAGS: PINT, EI, UK, US, (SHANNON, WILLIAM V)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odhc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/57f58662-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009